

## Message Text

SECRET

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20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 111296

R 031523Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8405

INFO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T LONDON 19542

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF, HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MU, UK, US

SUBJECT: MASIRAH: BRITISH WITHDRAWAL PLANS

1. DURING CONSULTATION AT FCO DECEMBER 3, KEALY IN MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT INFORMED EMBOFF AND VISITING NEA/ARP OFFICER GERLACH OF LATEST RAF PLANS FOR STAGED WITHDRAWAL FROM MASIRAH, AS FOLLOWS: RAF WILL HAVE ONLY 291 MEN LEFT ON MASIRAH BY JANUARY 1, 1977. BY FEBRUARY 1 THIS NUMBER WILL BE FURTHER REDUCED TO 191, AND BY MARCH 1 TO 180. A MAJOR REDUCTION IN AIR TRAFFIC BEING HANDLED BY THE RAF WILL COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 1, AT WHICH POINT THE OMANI AIR FORCE WILL TAKE OVER ALL NON-RAF AIR TRAFFIC. THE OMANIS STILL HAVE NOT REQUESTED ANY MORE BRITISH SECONDED TECHNICAL PERSONNEL TO HELP THE OMANI AIR FORCE RUN THE AIRPORT IN ADDITION TO THE SIX ALREADY REQUESTED.

2. THE DESALINATION PLANT ON MASIRAH IS ALREADY FUNCTIONING. THE RAF WILL CLOSE OUT ITS MEDICAL SERVICES ON MASIRAH ON FEBRUARY 1, AND THE OMANI MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES THERE WILL NOT START FUNCTIONING UNTIL MARCH 1; HOWEVER, THE OMANI CIVILIAN HOSPITAL IS TO START FUNCTIONING BY JANUARY 1. THE OMANI GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT KEEPING THE GOOD WILL OF THE

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CIVILIAN POPULATION ON THE ISLAND, AND ACCORDINGLY WILL

ASSIGN A CIVIL AFFAIRS LIAISON OFFICER EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY

1.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT HAS SENT  
TO EMBASSY MUSCAT AN INFO TELEGRAM ON MILITARY ASPECTS OF  
US-OMANI RELATIONSHIP FOR THE FUTURE. REQUEST DEPARTMENT  
REPEAT THIS TELEGRAM TO LONDON PROMPTLY AND SPECIFY  
WHICH PARTS OF IT WE MAY CONVEY TO FCO.

ARMSTRONG

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY PLANS, TROOP REDUCTIONS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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